

## MontCAS

### Montana Comprehensive Assessment System

### September 2012 Special Edition

### English Language Proficiency Assessment



Greetings! This is an addendum to the English language proficiency assessment memo that was sent out to test system coordinators the week of August the 20<sup>th</sup>. This document will provide:

- more detailed information about WIDA's online trainings and webinars
- information on using the new guidance document on the [Criteria for Identification of Limited English Proficiency & Definition of Proficient](#) and ACCESS for ELLs® results data to update LEP status.
- a cheat sheet of acronyms pertinent to English language learners (ELL)
- ACCESS for ELLs® Assessment Timeline
- the following link to a resource with great tips on what to do the first day with new English language learners: [A Teacher's Survival Guide: Getting Started with English Language Learners](#)

WIDA

WIDA Online Training and Information Webinars <i>All of these trainings require a user name and password which will be provided to you by your System Test Coordinator.</i>	Date Available
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#### Introduction to WIDA:

Provides basic information for System Test Coordinators and educators about WIDA. This training portion has no quiz.

1. Building Background Knowledge on WIDA (30 minutes)
2. WIDA Assessments (26 minutes)
3. WIDA Tools (27 minutes)

To access these webinars and the W-APT webinars you can go to [www.wida.us](http://www.wida.us), log in, click on the link to the Download Library, look for the Videos/Webinars section, click on **SHOW** next to Montana Webinars, locate the webinar you want to view, click on **SITE**. This will bring you to the webinar where you can print a handout and view.

Alternately:

Direct Link: <http://www.wida.us/downloadLibrary.aspx>

Look for the Videos/Webinars section and then Montana Webinars and 'click' on **SHOW** tab. Then click on the **LOG IN** tab next to the webinar you are trying to view. You will be prompted to log in and then will be returned to the downloads page and will be able to click on **SITE** to view the pre-recorded webinar. **Note to test coordinators- you will need to use your personal username and password to view these webinars.**

August 31



#### W-APT Trainings



Provides training for downloading, administering, scoring, and using the results of the W-APT to assist in the identification of newly enrolled students with limited English proficiency (LEP/ELL). This training portion has no quiz. We suggest printing and reading the pertinent test administration manual(s) before watching the webinar.

1. W-APT General Overview Webinar (9 minutes)
2. W-APT Speaking & Writing Tests Webinar (16 minutes)
3. W-APT Kindergarten Test Webinar (19 minutes)

August 31st

This training is available in the Montana Webinars section on the Download Library page

at [www.wida.us](http://www.wida.us)

It is recommended that test administrators who have completed this training in the past repeat the training as this is only the second year of the administration. The speaking test training must be retaken as the training has been updated this year.

#### Downloading and Printing W-APT Testing Materials

It is important to note that the ID and password that is used for training is not the same as is used for downloading W-APT testing materials. WIDA suggests two ways for test administrators to access testing materials: 1. Test Coordinators may choose to share the district ID and password with Test Administrators so that they can download and print materials independently; 2. Test Coordinators can download, print, and distribute all testing materials for test administrators. In this case test coordinators may also want to share the district login with the administrative assistants at the school level for easier access to testing materials.

#### Pre-ACCESS for ELLs Test Administration Training

October 1



Provides information on testing materials for system test coordinators and training for administration of the assessment.

Don't miss the VIDEO and AUDIO sections in this training!

The ACCESS Test Administrator training is available at: [www.wida.us](http://www.wida.us). Once you log in, you will click on the icon for the ACCESS for ELLs: Training Course and Quizzes. This is a comprehensive training course. Don't miss the video section in this training to see testing in action.

It is recommended that test administrators who have completed this training in the past repeat the training as this is only the second year of the administration. The speaking test training must be retaken as the information has been updated this year.

#### Using the ACCESS for ELLs® Results Reports to Update LEP status

It is important for districts to review the results of the ACCESS for ELLs® assessment and take them into consideration when updating the status of LEP students. The results reports from the 2011-12 MontCAS ELP assessment (ACCESS for ELLs®) were mailed to System Test Coordinators on 8/31/12 and should begin arriving by 9/7/12. LEP status must be updated in AIM by 10/12/12 in order for testing materials to be accurately ordered. The new guidance document: [Criteria for Identification of Limited English Proficiency & Definition of Proficient](#) along with the results reports and school assessments will guide you in making LEP status decisions.

#### Montana's Definition of "Proficient" for LEP Students

In order to determine when LEP students become proficient, districts will take into account multiple measures which include:

- ♦ At a minimum, an overall score of 5.0 along with a rating of 4.0 in literacy (reading and writing) on the ACCESS English Language Proficiency Assessment; and
- ♦ Input from additional measures of reading, writing, or language development available from school assessments. 8/9/2012

This recommendation is based on input from school district staff members that serve LEP students across the state, a review of practices in other states, and input from psychometricians. It is important for districts to review the results of the ACCESS assessment and take them into consideration to update AIM to reflect accurate student LEP status.

## English Language Learner Acronyms Cheat Sheet

*All these new acronyms driving you crazy? Here is a little guide for you...*

Acronym	What does it mean?
ACCESS for ELLs	Name of the English Language Proficiency test given annually to monitor progress of ELLs ACCESS stands for: Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners.
CAL	Center for Applied Linguistics
ELD	English Language Development (standards)
ELL(s)	English Language Learner(s)
ELP	English Language Proficiency (assessments)
ESL	English as a Second Language (program)
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
HLS	Home Language Survey
LEP	Limited English Proficient
TA	Test Administrator
W-APT	Name of the English language proficiency "screener" test given to incoming students who may be designated as English language learners W-APT stands for: WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test
WIDA	World-Class Instruction Design and Assessment

ACCESS for ELLS Assessment Timeline	Start Date	End Date
Deadline for school LEP program data to be entered into AIM	NA	10/12/2012
OPI orders tests and barcode labels for systems and schools.	NA	11/06/2012
Systems receive ACCESS test materials shipped by MetriTech*	NA	11/28/2012
Additional materials ordering deadline		1/16/2013
Test Window	12/3/2012	1/29/2013
Deadline for systems to ship return materials to MetriTech*		2/5/2013

**Wondering what to do on the first day of school for a new English Language Learner (ELL)?  
Here is a link to a useful resource created by CESA 9:**

[\*A Teacher's Survival Guide: Getting Started with English Language Learners\*](#)

### Questions about identification of students, including kindergarten students, as LEP, Contact:

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### Questions about testing materials and trainings, Contact:

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